

regulate the House and whose speech would be listened by me.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I don't know whether there is tension outside or not. But you are creating tension here unnecessarily. Please sit down.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Yesterday, I allowed preliminary discussion on it. All of you have made statements this way or that way. Then I have said that since you all are interested in discussing it, we would discuss this matter with all concerned and fix up the time for the debate. Today, again you raise the issue as if the other Members do not have anything to say.

*[Translation]*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: We are saying about 'Sone' itself.....*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: I do not know that you are not on the same point. Please sit down. I have allowed Shri Nitish Kumar to make a statement. I have told that since they are going to discuss Power, Water and Irrigation, this can also be discussed at that time. But in view of the fact that you are very much agitated and this being an important issue, I allowed him. Again you are prolonging it, as if the other hon. Member have nothing to say on other issues.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this time we are not going to have a debate on the Grants of the Ministry of Industry. But when the Parliament is in Session, a very important announcement has been made outside, not only in this country but abroad also. The

Finance Minister goes to Japan and makes an announcement on the dilution of the shareholdings in public sector undertakings to the extent of 49 per cent. He announced the Exit Policy which was adopted by this Government, when he was in Bangkok. Now he goes to Japan and to please his Japanese friends – I do not wish to use harsher words, so I would only say 'Japanese friends' – he announces the dilution of shareholdings in the public sector undertakings to the extent of 49 per cent.

Sir, there is something more to it. Mr. Thungon, the Minister of State for Industry, goes a step further. He holds a press conference on this very important issue and he says that a 49 per cent will be given to the foreign investors. While the Finance Minister says 'public at large', Shri Thungon says that this 49 per cent will be given to foreign investors for purpose of modernisation, etc. This is a very very serious matter. If such an important policy announcement is to be made outside this House, I do not know how we can function, how far this House is important and how well its status is being maintained by the Government. I oppose this very strongly. So far as our public sector undertakings are concerned, the Finance Minister has said that this would cover steel and telephone industries. Whichever industry we feel like offering, we can offer to the public. Therefore, let this Government say categorically that they do not, any longer, believe in public sector industries. Let them also say that the statement of Jawaharlal Nehru that the public sector would occupy the commanding heights of our economy no longer holds good, so far as this Government is concerned and so far as this country is concerned. We want a categorical statement on this issue.

Sir, I hope, you will express your annoyance as to how such important announcements are being made outside the House, when this House is sitting.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa): You, pull up the Minister.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, we oppose this. This is nothing but a sell-out to the foreigners; sell-out to the foreign multi-nationals.

Our industrial policy and our economic policy are now totally guided and controlled by these foreign multi-nationals in this country. What is going to happen? Is it the principle of self-reliance? Does it any longer hold good that we would like to know. How does the Finance Minister of this country go to a foreign country, when the House is sitting and making such important announcements?

Sir, we want that immediately, the Government should respond. Otherwise, it is very difficult to perform in this House. Important policies are being made; important economic issues are being decided and the House is not taken into confidence.

Sir, while replying to the debate on the General Budget, the Finance Minister never said this. Only a few days back, the discussion was held. Then, what is the purpose of having a discussion?

Sir, we would like to emphasise on the importance of discussing the demands here in the House. We also want to discuss important issues inside the House. Otherwise, all these discussions will become meaningless. Parliament is becoming irrelevant to this Government. Sir, we cannot allow this and the Government must here and now respond. Then, we shall decide what to do.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Bar-rackpore): We demand that these two Ministers should be dismissed. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RABI RAY (Kendrapara): Mr.

Speaker, Sir, it is a very important question. Earlier also, through this question the attention of countrymen was attracted through you in this House that it was an act of indiscretion on the part of hon. Finance Minister. He went to Bangkok and at the behest of I.M.F. he gave such a statement there without taking the Parliament into confidence. The House knows this thing. You also know it. The House is going on at present. It is also true that there is no likelihood of a discussion on the Ministry of Industry before the house is prorogued. That is why I am raising the question of propriety that when the session of Parliament, the Budget session is going on, how can the hon. Finance Minister give a statement at Tokyo against the declared policy of the Central Government? I would like to have a clarification about it. The hon. Finance Minister should not have done this. He has done an act of impropriety. It appears as if it was already decided that the hon. Finance Minister will go to foreign country and give statement there at the behest of I.M.F. and the World Bank and the hon. Minister of Industry, Shri Thungan will announce the same policy here. We feel that we have become slaves of the two institutions, i.e., I.M.F. and the World Bank. The Government is responsible for it. That is why it doesn't look nice on the part of the Government to say that the public sector undertakings are still at commanding heights insofar as India's economy is concerned. We condemn the act of the hon. Finance Minister who has given such a statement abroad.

Therefore, we would like that the Government should make a statement immediately on the issue with which the self-reliance of the country is linked.

[*English*]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum): Sir, this is a very serious matter.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Sir, the Defence Minister has agreed for a technical tie-up in defence production with America also. The Defence Minister has stated yesterday in Washington. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANNA JOSHI (Pune): Mr. Jena, have you give given it in writing? He has allowed me.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Just a moment. Please don't mind Mr. Joshi.

Sir, this is a very serious matter. The House has no idea about the Defence and Finance Ministers' statements. Yesterday, in the House itself, the Industries Minister, while replying on Maruti Udyog did not even mention about this and after the house adjourned, he had addressed a Press Conference and said that 47 per cent will be given to the foreign multi-nationals and foreign entrepreneurs. This is most unfortunate. What for we are here in the House? Why are we not discussing such things in the House? Unless this is settled and a specific ruling is given by you, we are not in a position to discuss any other item in this House. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed Mr. Anna Joshi. After him, you can speak.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): This relates to the rights of the House. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed Mr. Anna Joshi. Let me regulate the proceedings in the House. He has also an important issue to raise.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: When Mr. Somnath Chatterjee had spoken, he had spoken for all of you. I cannot allow each and every Member to speak. I cannot offer the luxury of allowing every member to speak when other members have to speak on other points.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: We are not questioning your judgement. The question is too important.

MR. SPEAKER: If you wanted to raise it, you could have discussed it with your Leader and you could have raised it yourself. Now, I cannot offer the luxury of giving each and every Member a chance to speak who feels the same way to say the same thing on the same point in the same hour.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: This is not a question of luxury at all. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am not allowing Mr. Nirmal Kant Chatterjee;

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What kind of cooperation you are giving to other Members? Do you think that this is the only one issue to be discussed. There are other Members who want to speak; they want to discuss some issues. How can you compare this thing?

If I had not allowed this issue to be raised, you could have asked for that. But having put it ably before this House, you again want to repeat the same thing. This is not correct.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry, I cannot accommodate this way.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: We cannot accept handing over the public sector units to the multinationals. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: On an important issue like this — the Senior Ministers are here — let some response be made. That is why, we, Members, agitated. They are sitting like sphinxes.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): Let me, first of all, say that Shri Somnath Chatterjee is such a senior Leader and a Member of Parliament. He said, this is a sell-out to foreigners. Let me say that I have a strong objection to what the hon. Member has said. This has been said time and again; rather this Parliament Session started with this only; the first week of the Parliament Session was devoted to this. And I think the Finance Minister was capable enough to satisfy many hon. Members on the left side; he was competent enough to satisfy them. So, I have an objection that this is not a fair way of raising this question that we have sold out thing.

As far as any policy announcement is concerned, I agree with the hon. Members that this is the propriety on the part of the Minister to make a policy statement on the Floor of this House. But I think the hon. Members will agree that the Finance Minister is not in the country; and sometimes there are compelling circumstances also. As far as compelling circumstances are concerned, I think the Minister is within his right to do so. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: We want to protest against this. *(Interruptions)*

This is very bad. What he has said has compounded the matter.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Let me add another thing.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: What were the compelling circumstances?

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: We are discussing in this Session, the Finance Bill, we are discussing the Defence Ministry and we are discussing the Industry Ministry. While discussing all these three Ministries, the Ministers will be requested to come forward with the circumstances under which they had to make those statements.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: The situation is becoming more serious.

*(Interruptions)*

We must emphatically protest and we will walk out as a protest against the Government policies.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: You are handing over the public sector. Forty-nine per cent of the shares are handed over and you say that it is not selling out! *(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar): Sir, decisions about economic policy are being made about which there can be differences of views and which can be debated. But today a new thesis is being propounded and that thesis is something about which I would like you to give your ruling. The Government does not come in.

The Government has maintained today that the statement that has been objected to is really a policy statement but because there were compelling circumstances, therefore, even though the House was..... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: I did not say "there were". I said "there could be".

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: My submission is that till now the Speaker's stand is that if there is any policy statement to be made and if the House is in session, then that should be made only in the House, not outside. There has never been a provision, at least from the Speaker, for compelling circumstances providing exceptions to this rule and today the Government on its own — firstly, I am not sure because I have not gone through the entire statement, whether it was really a policy statement that was made, or something different from what the Government has been saying till now — but if the Government itself says that a policy statement is there and normally it could have been made in the House, because there were compelling circumstances, he had to say something in Tokyo, and therefore it was said. It is a situation in which you must set the record straight and examine the statement that has been made and see if you can agree with the Government's contention. This House cannot agree with this contention.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Let me make it clear. Let me answer the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: I do not want you answer. I want the Hon. Speaker's answer. I am sorry.

MR. SPEAKER: To reply to you I must listen to both sides. To give some ruling. I must hear both the sides.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: At least the statement that he has just made provoked me to point out to you that it is within your sphere, not within his sphere. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: I have

said, well, there is a propriety that any policy statement must be made on the floor of the House. This I have said. But as far as this question is concerned, this is already a policy. There is nothing new in this policy. This is part of the policy. This is not anything new. That is why, I have said that one week of Parliament was devoted to this and the Finance Minister was strong, enough to meet all their points and he was strong enough to satisfy them. So, there is nothing new in what he has said. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: We have become a supplicant nation. We cannot be a party to this. *(Interruptions)* Amends must be made. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: One after the other please.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Otherwise we will not participate in the debate. As a protest we walk out.

12.25 hrs.

*At this stage, Shri Somnath Chatterjee and some other hon. Members left the House.*

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum): Sir, the hon. Members on the other side do not want to hear the truth. The Industrial Policy was extensively discussed during the last Session of Parliament. I had also participated in the present Budget discussion. Disinvestment in the public sector was one of the major policies contained in the present Budget. There was a proposal to disinvest upto 49 per cent. And whatever has been stated by the hon. Finance Minister in Tokyo — I have also gone through the newspaper — is only within the policy that has already been stated and discussed here. They want to give a wrong message that we are selling the country and we are always surrendering our economic sovereignty. It is unfortunate that they are not willing to hear the truth. I would

like to communicate to them, through you, Sir, that this is not a sell out but this is an implementation of the policy which has been already stated here. All minor details in regard to implementation need not be declared in the House.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it seems that our leftist friends had come here with an intention to boycott the House today on any matter. But the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs gave them a chance. So, they have once again stepped back.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you may recall, the same situation that took place on the day when Shri Solanki resigned. Today, he has really pushed his Government in a fix. If I were in his place, in which I am not, I am on this side and I don't want to be on that side, I would have said the hon. Finance Minister has not said anything new. The discussion has already been going on for quite some time. He has not mentioned it. He said that there is a propriety in that a policy statement is made on the floor of the House but there were some compelling circumstances.....

SHRI GULAM NABIAZAD: I have said that it always happens but since it could not.....

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am recollecting a couplet:

Zaroor koi Mazboori Hogi,  
Yon koi Bewafa Nahin Hota."

So, should we take it that our hon. Finance Minister has become indifferent. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply given is not to the point. I submit to you to intervene in it. Just pull up the Government.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: First of all, I think that the Parliamentary Affairs Minister did properly what he should do. This is my impression. Some Members may have a different impression. Secondly, we have such learned and erudite Members in the House, who know the propriety, the rules and the decisions given. It is not always necessary for the Presiding Officer to go on telling the Members on this side of any other side that this is to be done and this is not to be done. They all know about it. So, it is not necessary to give a new ruling. There cannot be a new ruling on the points which have been raised.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Please repeat the old ruling.....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Innumerable rulings have already been given. As far as the factual position is concerned, supposing the Finance Minister has said that the equity can be to the extent of 49 per cent and all those things, this is something alleged, this is something said, and from the other side it is coming that this has already been decided and this was discussed also. My impression is also something like that. But then I should not go by impression. And I should have factual position before me. There is an allegation and there is also a defence. After the allegation and the defence are tallied the decision should be given and not otherwise.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI (Pune): There was a disastrous explosion in the Kirki Arms and Ammunition factory on Wednesday, April 8, 1992 at 11 O' clock. In this explosion, about 13 persons were killed on the spot, 40 seriously injured and hundred wounded. Explosion resulted in a big fire in which two buildings got gutted and collapsed. Total monetary loss must be around some lakhs of rupees.